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UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Supervising Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

Report on the smallpox outbreak at Key West.

CAMP PATTERSON,
Key West, Fla., August 19, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to report good progress at the camp under my command. All smallpox patients have practically recovered, save 2, and been discharged except 13. Eleven of these will probably be dismissed on or about Friday next. There remain under suspicion to-day 14 persons, of whom I expect to dismiss 7 on Monday next, unless there are cases developed in the meantime. Provided no cases should occur among these suspects, it is reasonable to conclude that all patients and suspects may be dismissed by August 30, and I will then devote probably three days to a thorough disinfection of hospital and contents, tents and flies, and cleaning of grounds, and turn over the property to the State in good sanitary condition. There has been no new case in the city since July 27, but several extremely difficult decisions have been involved in the diagnosis of smallpox from pemphigus and herpes iris in young negroes. Up to date, neither Dr. Porter nor I have been able to learn anything reliable about the origin of this outbreak, although every effort has been made to do so, and can only surmise that a case of varioloid may have left some outside point just after infection and arriving here, had the disease several days later, and of so mild a type as to escape notice.

Very respectfully,

J. H. WHITE,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

CAMP PATTERSON,
Key West, Fla., August 24, 1896.

Discharged 8. Hope to close hospital on Wednesday and whole camp Saturday. No new cases.

J. H. WHITE,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.